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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4357

INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 0095

RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY 0240

RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA PRIORITY 3332

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0420

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 000224

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

AF/E

AF/RSA FOR JUN BANDO

IO/UNP FOR JOE FITZGERALD

EEB/TRA/OTP

OES/OA

L/OES FOR ASH ROACH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/28/2018

TAGS: [KCRM](#) [PBTS](#) [PREL](#) [EFIS](#) [UN](#) [UNSC](#) [IMO](#) [XA](#) [XW](#) [SO](#) [SP](#)

SUBJECT: SPAIN INTERESTED IN SOMALIA PIRACY UNSCR

REF: STATE 18101

Classified By: Acting DCM Josie Shumake for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to Spanish MFA Deputy Director General for Sub-Saharan Africa Antonio Sanchez-Benedito on February 27. Sanchez-Benedito thanked Poloff and expressed Spain's serious interest in a possible UNSCR on Somali piracy for two reasons. First, as a nation particularly threatened by international terrorism, Spain does not want continued lawlessness in Somalia to allow it to become a perpetual safe haven for terrorist groups. Second, Spain has a significant number of tuna vessels fishing in international waters off the Horn of Africa, a couple of which have come under attack by Somali pirates. Sanchez-Benedito said that these boats are mostly based in the Seychelles and do not spend all of their time near Somalia, but the fleets have expressed growing concern for their safety in international waters.

¶2. (C) Sanchez-Benedito said he would pass the information around the ministry; he asked whether the U.S. could share a draft text for a resolution. He also added that Spain could be willing to demarche Security Council members if necessary.

Finally, he cautioned that this issue would probably not draw highest-level GOS interest at present, given the proximity of the March 9 Spanish elections.

AGUIRRE